



GuideLines

Number 358 – Thursday 18th April 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)

Flora News

By Warren Brewer

Poverty weed or gum diggers' soap, the kūmarahou shrub has many useful features.

Kūmarahou, *Pomaderris kumeraho*, a labelled shrub on Wattle Track, now has flower buds present. The buds will undergo a long development before flowering in early Spring.

Pomaderris is a genus of 70 or more species of shrubs to small trees. Sixty-five are native to Australia and eight are native to New Zealand.

Kūmarahou is restricted naturally to the upper 2/3rds of the North Island. Its name signals "kūmara planting time", the start of flowering guiding Māori to when kūmara planting should begin. The fluffy bundles of new tiny bright yellow flowers make a great display.



Māori applied fresh kūmarahou leaves



to wounds and sores, and wounds were also bathed with an infusion made by boiling the leaves.

The common name poverty weed refers to its habit of thriving in poor clay soil. Gumdiggers' soap was coined from the time when men were employed digging for kauri gum in Northland. A slight lather comes from rubbing flowers and leaves with a little water.

Tiritiri Matangi has a second species of Pomaderris. **Tauhinu**, *Pomaderris amoena*, is more widespread in New Zealand. It is also present on Wattle Track.

Pomaderris means “membranous lid,” a covering for the seeds.

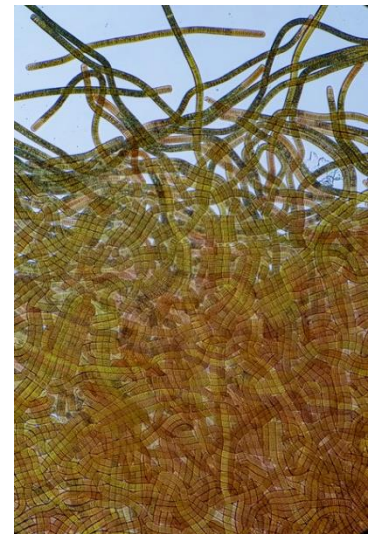
Amoena means pleasing, charming.



Seagrass Meadows

This important Tiritiri Matangi talk by John Sibley is coming up on Monday the 29th of April. He'll be covering:

1. The strange and unique nature of the seagrasses.
2. The Ecological and economic importance of seagrass meadows
3. The problems it faces and how this impacts all life on Tiritiri Matangi and the entire Hauraki Gulf
4. The investigations currently underway to answer questions about the future of seagrass meadows
5. What all this has to do with the devastating Caulerpa invasion happening in the rest of the Gulf.



Find out about the toxic problem on our doorstep amongst the seagrass off Tiritiri Matangi. What is going on in this picture?

Where: Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings

When: 7:30pm

You can also pre-book to attend the zoom webinar this link:

Webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ykOrmYwRfytV3v6h3cYbw

Fauna News

Kōkako summary

Morag Fordham reports: We have 13 fledglings for the season, eight males, four females and one whose sex is unknown as Skye and Bátor's nest could not be accessed.

Discovery and Sarang were the only pair to successfully fledge two chicks. They are both females and have been named Rondo and A Cappella.

The other two female fledglings were produced by Wai Ata and Awenga and Pūtōrino and Sapphire and are named Kiri and Iorangi.



The eight male fledglings (with the parents' names in brackets) are Tāne (Shelly and Tama), Tūpari (Oran and Haar), Wedel (Haeata and Hotu), Rōreka (Wairua and Parininihi), Tuatahi (Phantom and Wakei), Kiseki (Rehu and Noel), Fonn (Te Rae and Chatters) and Nuka (Jenny and Slingshot).



The season ended with 25 pairs as despite having successfully fledged a chick *(UB10), Bátor and Skye have separated. Marihi who had paired up with Themba, (Honey and Rimu's son from last season)

has left him and is now with Bátor. Skye has been seen in the same area on her own and UB10 has been sighted only once and was alone.

The two youngsters, Moana and UB9, from last season are still together in a small area at the top of Little Wattle Valley/ Implement shed. As suspected, the recently caught and banded UB9, is a male and has been named Hēnare.

*We use the term UB (unbanded) until each kōkako has been given his/her own combination of coloured bands and a numbered metal band.

Kōkako Music

An Assistant Professor of Clarinet and his classically trained musician wife who were recent visitors to the motu were enchanted with the song of the kōkako. Their fascinating in depth musical analysis of the unique kōkako song has been posted on both Facebook and Instagram. To read it in detail click through to the [blog here](#).

Fungi: The Web of Life

This fascinating 3D film is being promoted by one of our guides. An additional 41 bookings are needed for Rialto Newmarket to screen it. If you're interested, tickets can be reserved [here](#), or by clicking on the ad below. No charges will be made until the screening is confirmed.

Screening:	May 9 th at 6:30pm
Venue:	Rialto, Newmarket
Cost:	\$25 per ticket plus \$2 booking fee
3D glasses:	Available for \$1 each



FUNGI: THE WEB OF LIFE

PROMOTED BY BLAIR GILES

Date: Thu, May 9, 2024 6:00PM

Where: Rialto Cinemas Newmarket
Rialto Centre, Auckland, Auckland, 1642, New Zealand

Join us for this very special screening of 'Fungi: Web of Life' in spectacular 3d. The film features the author of the bestseller book 'Entangled Life', Dr Merlin Sheldrake and narration by Bjork. Discover the mysterious world that exists between and connects all life on Earth. Introducing this beautiful film that showcases jaw-dropping time-lapse cinematography, Merlin Sheldrake conducts a Q & A (previously recorded at the World Premiere in London) with the team behind the search for an incredibly precious blue mushroom. "With millions more species to discover, our journey into the secret world of fungi has only just begun." Bring your own Real 3D glasses or reserve to buy and they will be available on entrance to the screening.

Tickets:

General Admission: \$25.00
Real 3D glasses: \$1.00
Additional booking fee of \$2.00 per ticket.
(Includes all applicable taxes)

Ask the Experts – this week it’s myths and mirths time:

Myth 1: The stitchbird is so named because they stitch the sticks together to make their nest:

It’s true the hihi / stitchbird makes a wonderful woven puzzle out of hundreds of sticks as the foundation of their nest. Their European name is however one of the many using onomatopoeia – it was thought their call sounded like a stitch being made (possibly by a large piece of machinery). The Māori name means ‘ray of sun’, from the bright yellow stripe on the breast of the males.

Myth 2: Tūī have two syrinxes (not cervixes which has been overheard) which is how they can make their complex sounds.

Scientific studies have shown the song of the tūī to be one of the most complex amongst avian songsters with a study revealing over 300+ different tūī ‘songs’. That’s still a very long way from the top of that ranking in numbers of songs, with the [brown thrasher](#) coming in over 1,000.

The **syrinx**, birds’ vocal organ, sits at the base of their trachea at the point where it divides into the two bronchial [tubes leading into the lungs](#).

Passerine birds, including the tūī, have nine pairs of muscles to control the syrinx’s tautness. The tūī is unique in that it can fine tune the airflow coming from each bronchial tube, giving it the ability to duet with itself. Their syrinx isn’t divided, it’s their control over the two bronchial tubes coming into the syrinx that makes tūī special.

Read more on this on the [Forest & Bird blog here](#).

Myth 3: Kiwi has the shortest bill of all the birds due to it being measured from nostril to the tip of the beak.

This is not how the beak is measured: It’s measured from the tip to the cere at the base of the beak – or to where the feathers start, depending on the species.

Also kiwis’ nostrils are not at the absolute end of their bill and there may be small passerines that have bills so short that their nostrils are closer to the tip than that of the kiwi.

Send your most vexing questions to guidelines@tiritirimatangi.org.nz and we’ll ask the experts for an answer.

Don’t forget we love to get your favourite newsy photos for sharing.

Up and coming

Tiritiri Matangi Talks Monday 29th April – Seagrass Meadows

Put it in your diary and register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ykOrmYwRfytV3v6h3cYbw

Tiritiri Matangi Talks Monday 10th June

Maritime Historic Day Saturday 20th April

Photography Walks Sunday 21st April

SoTM Social Monday 13th May

Supporters' Weekends Saturday 11th May

Saturday 13th July

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

Working Weekends

King's Birthday Weekend – 1st - 3rd June

SoTM website links and blogs

- [Kōkako music](#)
- [SoTM blog page](#)

Cybersleuth

- [The French aristocrat who understood evolution 100 years before Darwin – and even worried about climate change](#)
- [Dr Brian Richardson presented with Minister’s Biosecurity Award in Wellington](#)
- [Tortoise stolen from Ti Point Reptile Park found in Northland](#)



**Ngā mihi maioha
(with thanks and appreciation)**

Photographs:

Header

Flora

Seagrass Meadows & kōkako

Footer

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